

Mystery vehicle seized in police shooting probe

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this morning on another matter. On Tuesday he is due to attend a meeting in Ottawa.

The surprise seizure of the second car was made as part of an intensified probe by the civilian SIU, which investigates all police incidents resulting in death or serious injury.

Dawson's vehicle was the first one seized.

Marin confirmed last night a second car was seized for forensic examination, but he wouldn't comment further, other than saying the car was "relevant."

The owner of the vehicle, whose name he would not reveal, "was very agreeable," Marin said.

He added it did not belong to a relative of any of the seven Metro police officers and one Waterloo officer who were at the scene of the shooting about 8:45 p.m. March 30.

Meanwhile, the forensic tests on Dawson's car have been delayed by the lack of statements from the witness officers, Marin said.

The outside of the car has been examined, but an intensive look at the inside is yet to come,

he added.

"The analyst told us it would be important to get a working hypothesis before beginning an exhaustive examination.

"In effect, the examination of this vehicle is paralysed until we interview witnesses."

He said the only thing removed from Dawson's car so far has been some money, which has been put in safekeeping.

The news of the second car is yet another shock in an investigation that seems full of surprises.

On Saturday, Marin abruptly changed the designation of two officers from "witnesses" to "subjects" of the investigation.

Detective Constables Phil Chan and Albert Flis were informed of that decision when they and three colleagues arrived at the SIU offices for interviews.

Detective Constables Rick Shank and Rajeev Sukurmaran were designated "subject officers" immediately after the shooting.

Five other members of the East Field Command Drug squad — Chan, Flis, Gibson, Rogers, and Detective Constable Lorelei McIvor — were designated "witness officers" at that

time.

Now four of them are under scrutiny. McIvor has given a statement and Gibson and Rogers are to be interviewed today.

Boothby said he didn't have to order the three witness officers to give statements, because all had agreed to do so.

"Most assuredly, if the need arises to instruct an officer to give a statement, I will," he said.

Marin yesterday again said the change in status for the officers was unrelated to the discharge of their firearms. Instead, he reiterated the explanation of his unit's spokesperson, Barbara Theobalds.

Theobalds had said Saturday: "A subject officer is someone whose conduct appears to have caused the death or injury being investigated and who may be charged."

Eyewitnesses suggest Dawson died after a chain of events that began when an officer used a gun to break a car window, discharging the firearm, sources have told The Star.

The bullet smashed a window on the other side of the car — where another officer, who was holding a shotgun, was hit with glass or bullet fragments.

That officer reeled backward,



DAVID BOOTHBY: Police chief says officers gave statements willingly.

possibly thinking he had been shot, sources said.

"Everyone believed he was hit, he believed he was hit," a police source said.

And a third officer opened fire at Dawson, who was sitting at the wheel alone in his car.

Dawson was to be arrested because earlier in the evening the team used marked money to buy cocaine from him.

Police commission member Laura Rowe told The Star's Rosie DiManno it was "highly inappropriate for the chief to make any comment at the scene before the SIU had even begun their investigation.

"It's really inappropriate in any circumstances, but especially when it's another body that is doing the investigating."

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